



The Sandpaper

Volume 5, Issue 4

"Pearl of the Desert"

FEBRUARY 2002



Food Fest and Air Show Preview



Basketball Tournament...



Lakers win Valentines Tournament

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SK1 Diego Named NAF SOY



By JO2 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

He recently received his third Good Conduct Medal and a Letter of Commendation from Rear Admiral Frederic Ruehe for his outstanding service as Supply Petty Officer for NAF El Centro. His positive outlook and willingness to go beyond the call of duty recently earned him the title as NAF El Centro Sailor of the Year (SOY) for calendar year 2001.

"I didn't think I was going to get selected, because I

was running against some outstanding Sailors, said Store Keeper 1st Class Petty Officer Francisco Diego, Supply Department. "I feel great. It feels good to know everything you do means something to the people you work for."

At a dinner last month at the Mirage Club, Diego received praise and recognition for his selection and was awarded a \$200.00 check by members of the Navy League.

When we asked Diego
Continued on page 12

New Commander takes the helm

By JO3 Leif Brekke
Navy Compass

ABOARD USS

TARAWA (LHA 1)—Rear Adm. Jose Luis Betancourt Jr. relieved Rear Adm. Frederic R. Ruehe as Commander of Navy Region Southwest.

The change of command took place on the flight deck onboard USS Tarawa

(LHA 1). The Tarawa, moored to Pier Two at Naval Base San Diego, served as a fine setting for this changing of the guard.

Ruehe assumed the command as the Chief Navy Liaison to the San Diego community on Feb. 4, 2000. Since then, he has plotted a course to set CNRSW a step above the rest in regards to the



Photo by PH1 Timothy McAdams.

Navy's 21st century shore infrastructure. With that foundation in place, he was in a

Continued on page 12



BY ONE SECOND

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

The NAF El Centro running team was the over all champion for the Carrot Festival relay race which took place last month at the 55th annual Holtville Carrot Festival. Running against six other teams, they took first place and broke the previous record held by the Calexico track team.

At the sound of the gunshot, the hopes of a win for
Continued on page 6



From the Captain

By Captain Larry Crane

Commanding Officer

Once again the NAFEC Centro Air Show is upon us. During the past year our Operations Department and the MWR Department has been busily preparing for the March 9th event. We believe we have assembled the best air show to date for NAFEC. Our civilian performers are top of the line and of course the Blue Angels are the best of the flight demonstration teams. Due to the tragedies of 11 Sept, we will have to change some of our operating procedures for this event. The most important is that 9 March will now be a workday for all Navy military on board NAFEC. Also, security inspections for the air show MUST be incorporated for access onto the base. We can not, and will not, let our guard down on air show day.

During the past month there have been many important evolutions happening here at NAFEC. With the redistricting of California, the Imperial Valley will get a new Representative in Washington D.C. Congressman Robert Filner will replace Congressman Duncan Hunter. Representative Filner paid a visit to NAFEC



on 21 February and was quite impressed with our base. Rep Filner commented he "was unaware of how important this base was for our national security."

Congressman Filner also commented on the local valley's support for the base, and the base's support for the local valley. We did a good job of presenting NAFEC to Representative Filner. THANKS!

Another change that is taking place is the approval for a new transient barracks. We all know how tight our rooms get during the year and this is the first step in ensuring we have adequate billeting for all that come to NAFEC. A follow on project for permanent party personnel is planned in two years. As the United States Congress continues to provide money for construction projects, we at NAFEC are receiving needed money to build what will be needed to lead us into the next 20 years. It will be nice to see at least one of our projects started this year.

We have also opened (reopened) our Fitness Center. It is bigger, better and has new equipment. If you have been neglecting working out because the Fitness Center was too crowded, you no longer have that excuse. The next PRT cycle is just around the corner. Get in there and use the new equipment, your body will thank you. We have also just installed the new sign at the front gate. We are trying to work out the bugs and make it say what we really want it to say, in a size we can all read. We are joining the modern Navy and the new sign sure looks better than the old.



As I close for this month, I am constantly amazed at the quality work each of you, whether you are military or civilian, provides to the base. I know saying thank you is not much, but it is just about all I can do. Thank You! For a job extremely well done!

The Sandpaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense (DoD), or the U.S. Navy and do not imply endorsement thereof.

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Remembering African American History

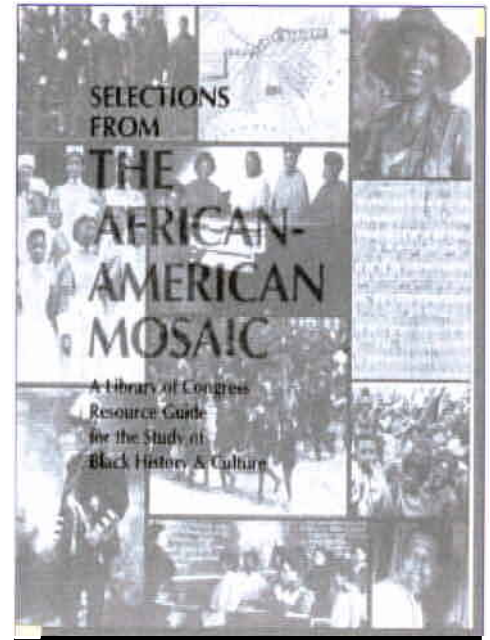
By IT2 Darryl Howlett
Staff Writer

Historical tidbit: On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman, both in response to pressure from Blacks and out of a sense of doing what is right, issued the historical order, Executive Order 9981, which abolished segregation in all branches of the Armed Forces. This was the most historical and far-reaching order to ever affect Blacks in the military. The Order, in part, stated: "It is the declared policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Services without regard to race, color, or nationality...."

From the birth of our nation up until our most recent conflict, African-Americans has served with valor and honor in the United States Navy. Every African-American sailor today can give thanks to those who paved the way: those who bore the injustices of racial segregation, hatred, and unfairness.

We give honor today to those who were relegated to the only jobs available to Blacks in the Navy – mess stewards, but still maintained their dignity

and worth. We honor those like Vice Admiral Samuel Gravelly Jr., who became the first African-American to command a combatant ship, to be promoted to flag rank, and to command a naval fleet. We honor Dorie Miller, who although he served as a mess steward, manned a machine gun onboard the USS West Virginia and shot down two Japanese planes during the attack on Pearl Harbor. We honor "The Golden 13", the first African-American Naval Officers. We honor those who have fought in all of our wars and conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to the Gulf War to those supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle. We honor those who command ships, and those who have earned respect through their daily dedication to their naval jobs. We honor our civil rights leaders and activists, who drew attention to the inequalities that were faced. This month we honor any commander, admiral, department head, LPO, and shipmates who are willing to treat us like equals and partners. We honor our African-American Sailors of today whether they are flying planes, tuning antennas, giving medical



examinations or standing guard. Everyday, as African-Americans, we make history in the Navy. Stand strong, stand proud, and continue the legacy passed down from a courageous people, thus ensuring that the United States has the best Navy in the world.

Why is African American History Month important



Ed Gamble
Site Safety Manager

It highlights Black American contributions to the growth of this Great Nation, and fosters better understanding of Black American culture.



MA1 Miriam Adams
Watch Commander

African American month is important because it gives American's a chance to learn and possibly experience a culture that they wouldn't normally have a chance to experience or learn about.



MAC(SW) Gary Callahan
Command Investigator.

I feel African American month is important because it helps the black community, especially our younger generation, stay in touch with the diversity that our ancestors had to endure. In addition, it recognizes important African Americans..."past and present".

Vincennes
University
**Spring
Classes
Start
March 11.**



**Register
at Bldg. 110**

Questions call 339-2986



Recycling on Base:

Now is the time to be a hero

By IT2 Darryl Howlett
Staff Writer

For two workers at NAFEL Centro's Recycling Department, protecting the environment is not some far-fetched ideology dealing with high-pressure politics.

Monday through Friday items onbase are collected and sent elsewhere to be recycled. Inside the office, a gold poster reminds those who read it that through recycling you can "Be A Hero and Save The World." Jose Galvan and Alfredo Mendez, have worked for Recycling for three years.

"Hazmat was in charge of recycling before Naval Region Southwest took over. Our main

office is in San Diego," Mendez said. "We give brochures to new members that move on base."

Mendez said Recycling collects tons of materials. "Monday we collect cardboards, Tuesday its curbside recycling, Wednesday bottles, Thursday newspapers, and Friday we go back and collect everything that's been left from the four previous days," he said.

Mendez said Recycling constantly is trying to grasp the pulse of recycling on base. "Currently we are conducting a survey on base, thirty percent of the people that live on base recycle," he said.

Materials collected for recycling go to various places. "A bale of cardboard is 700

pounds and we collect 15 to 20 bales before they are shipped to San Diego," he said. "Some of the materials go to San Diego, some to Imperial Valley Recycling in El Centro. The money from recycling goes to Southwest Region and Region then uses that money to give donations to different programs on base.

Mendez said the Recycling Department must continue to educate the base on the importance of recycling. "Some people on base do not know about recycling. People need to be educated to know recycling is good for the environment."

For more information about the various recycling programs contact Jose Galvan at ext. 2225.



Alfredo Mendez is responsible for collecting recyclable material around base.

Valentines

By LCDR Bruce Hougesen
Base Chaplain

It began in the third century with the oppressive Roman emperor, Claudius II, and the humble Christian, Valentinus. Claudius ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods and made it a crime, punishable by death, to associate with Christians. Nevertheless, Valentinus was dedicated to Christ, and not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing his beliefs. He was arrested and imprisoned.

During the last weeks of Valentinus' life, the jailer observed that his prisoner was a man of learning and asked if his daughter, Julia, could be

brought to him for lessons. Julia had been blind since birth.

He read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic, and told her about God, the Christ. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength.

"Do you know what I pray for every morning and night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you've described! Does God really hear our prayers?" Julia asked.

"God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him,"



After Sunday worship on Valentines day, members joined Chaplain Bruce Hougesen for a Potluck.

Valentinus said. "Oh, Valentinus, I do believe," she said intensely. "I do." She knelt and grasped his hand. As they prayed together, suddenly there was a brilliant light in the

prison cell. Absolutely radiant, Julia cried, "Valentinus, I can see! I can see!" "Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed.

The night before he died, 1733

years ago, Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God. He signed it, "from your Valentine." His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 269 AD.



Groundhog Jobshadow Day

Sailors mentor area school students

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez

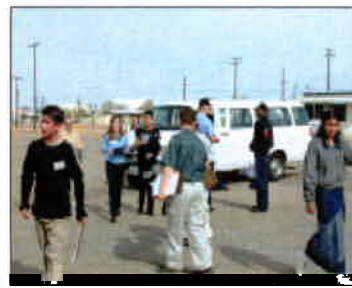
Editor

Sailors at Naval Air Facility El Centro made a great impression on local students who attended the Groundhog Job Shadow Day on Feb 1.

Sixty-eight Imperial Valley students joined the more than one million young people estimated to have shadowed working professionals in workplaces like NAF El Centro as part of the Fourth Annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Once on base, students were taken to six different departments where they were given a 30-minute tour and had the opportunity to ask questions.

"I extremely enjoyed learning about the K-9 unit and the air traffic control tower," said Shane Hendry an 8th grade student at McCabe Union School District. Besides the K-9 Unit and traffic control tower, students were able to shadow jet mechanics from the Strike Fighter Wing, fire fighters from the Fire Department, medical personnel at the Branch Medical Clinic, Aviation Ordnancemen from the Weapons Department, and computer technicians from the Information Technology Department. "It was great to see such high quality people telling us about their jobs," said Liz Aida, student at McCabe.

Job Shadow Day is a yearlong national effort to enrich the lives of students. This is accomplished by acquainting them with the world of work through on-the-job experiences and a carefully



Top: Lt Holly Hutchinson tells students about her experience as a pilot. Students were given a tour of six different departments on base.

crafted school curriculum that ties academics to the workplace.

There was no doubt Sailors made a big impression on the students that day. The following week dozens of letters arrived thanking Sailors and

those involved for the good time they had during their visit. "I had a lot of fun and learned so much. I would really like to be in the Navy someday," said Aida.



Volunteers Needed Central High School Track Meet

Time Keepers and Judges needed to assist Central High School with their Track Meet **Saturday, March 16.** From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Food will be provided
Contact the Public Affairs Office at 339-2519

Your LES @ on line

By YN1 Michael Martin
Command Career Counselor

All military personnel will be doing themselves a great service by logging into and using the EMSS Website. <https://emss.dfas.mil/emss.htm> You can view/print LES's (usually 3-4 days prior to PSD printing them), take allotment actions, change your direct deposit and make your TSP election. Often times, doing these things through EMSS is much more streamlined then doing it through PSD. And you will still get your LES from PSD, unless you actually choose to stop that distribution. Try to get online with this. It can make managing your pay account much easier. For more information you can contact me at (760) 330-2544.



Above: Members of the MWR Department were present during the Fitness Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to assist with questions regarding the new equipment. Below: AOJ Jay Bauer and daughter Samantha show their medals after running a race. Bottom: Orlando and Ramon Ortiz sons of MWR Secretary Gloria Ortiz ran in two separate divisions.



Top Left: Tony Fajardo, Fitness Trainer explains how to properly use the new equipment. Above: Tomas Duarte, International Custom Enterprises Contractor, Captain Larry Crane, Public Works Officer, LT Chuck Lewis and MWR Director Ralph Ramsey cut the ribbon at the ceremony.

Busy Month for MWR

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

February was a busy month for MWR. Starting at the beginning of the month they sponsored the NAF El Centro Running team who took first place in the Holtville Carrot Festival Relay race. Special thanks to Laurie Bower for making this happen.

In local sports Jay Underwood, Laurie Bauer and the MWR staff kept busy with Ping Pong, basketball, and billiards tournaments which

took place throughout the month.

On February 19, MWR held a ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate the Fitness Center expansion. "Thanks to some book work by Mr. Ralph Ramsey we were able to get some funding for the expansion and as you can see, a lot of work has been done," said CAPT. Larry Crane. "We got a larger building where you can come in, work-out and have room to breathe without bumping into people. We think that what we have really done here is provide you with the best facility we can possibly

provide you with here at NAF El Centro." We got some good stuff so I only ask that you take care of the equipment as you have been doing."

The Skipper concluded by thanking Mr. Ramsey, MWR Director, Tomas Duarte, the contractor responsible for the construction and all the members of the MWR staff.

Following the ceremony Sailors and civilians proceeded to try-out the new equipment. A fitness trainer was there to assist on how to use the new equipment. The event concluded with a lunch provided by MWR.



Relay race

Continued from page 1

NAF seemed to disappear as the runners vanished at the end of the first leg with Calipatria State Prison in the lead. But that changed when Simon Gibson was able to catch up at the end, handing the carrot to Jose Gomez who made a fantastic ¼ mile sprint that gave the team a two second lead. From there on, NAF was in the lead. Rorey Nichols took the third leg passing the carrot to Sperry who

made the final sprint finishing in 1st place. The time was four-minutes 7- seconds, breaking the relay record by one second.

For Laurie Bauer, MWR Sports Coordinator, it was a great triumph. "It feels great," she said. "We put out a tryout announcement before the race, then we timed the runners for speed and the results paid off. We are proud we took the first place trophy."

In addition James

Worley and Jay Bauer from Strike Fighter Maintenance Unit, ran in the 5K race (3.1 miles). Jay and Laurie Bauer's daughter,

Samantha age 12, and MWR Secretary Gloria Ortiz's sons Orlando and Ramon Ortiz ages 11 and eight also participated.



At the sound of the gunshot, Simon Gibson was in third place. He caught up at the end of the first leg.



World of Sports



Far Left: The NAF El Centro Lakers after winning the Valentines basketball tournament. Above: Life Guard Matt Rapp takes aim before taking a shot at the eight-ball during last month's Billiards Tournament. Below: The Army basketball team accompanied by their cheerleading squad took 2nd place in the Valentines Tournament.

Basketball

Valentines Tournament

By Jay Underwood

MWR Rec Director

The MWR Valentines Basketball tournament turned out to be a fun filled event. With a total of eight teams and

66 players, the tournament atmosphere resembled spring training in a pre-season football camp, because of the rough and tumble play.

The final game between the NAF Lakers against the U.S. Army was a total defensive low scoring match. With 4-minutes 18-seconds remaining on the

clock the score was tied at 31. But the Lakers changed that with some great plays in the final moments bringing the final score to 47-37. Special thanks to SPC Rorey Nichols, AO1 Jay Bauer, HM3 Jason Bonney, AO2 Robert Brown and Ssg. Mike Reed for volunteering as Officials.



Billiards

Behind the Eight

By AZ2 Lloyd Napouk

Strike Fighter

The 2002 Captain's Cup Billiards Tournament came to an exciting conclusion as AO1 Jay Bauer (SFMU) jumped over the eight-ball to pocket his

last stripe and also "got shape" on the game ball to defeat Robert Mayden (CONS) in game 5 of the finals in this 2-week event.

Results were as follows:

1st - AO1 Bauer (SFMU)

2nd - Robert Mayden (CONS)

3rd - Matt Rapp (CONS)

4th - AOAA Gritton (WEAOPS)

Sixty-four contestants entered the tournament to pursue the

Title & Trophy of the 2002 Captain's Cup Billiards Championship. The tournament format was a single elimination-race to three, BCA World Standardized 8-Ball Rules, held at the Mirage Club.

This enthusiastic event precedes the "Weekly 9-Ball Tournaments" to be held at the Mirage Club every Wednesday night. Sign-ups will be taken at



Life Guard Shane Talley is hoping his opponent misses the shot.

1730 and games begin at 1800. The Mirage Club will also offer food and drink specials.

Standings

Billiards

1st Place AO1 Jay Bauer
2nd Place Robert Mayden
3rd Place Matt Rapp
4th Place AOAA Jesse Gritton

Captain's Cup Point Standings

SMFU	8 Points
ARMY	5 Points
CONS	2 Points
WEAOPS	2 Points



Ping Pong

1st Place Staff Sgt. Mike Reid
2nd Place AO1 Jay Bauer
3rd Place AE3 Travis Fletcher
4th Place RP1 Eric Hair

Left: "It feels good to win. I played a little tentative, so I'll take the win," said Ping Pong Champion, Staff Sgt. Mike Reid, Team Shield.



AE3 Travis Fletcher took 3rd place, Staff Sgt. Mike Reid won 1st place and, AO1 Jay Bauer, took 2nd place at the Ping Pong Tournament.



Who Let The Dogs Out?

Photos by:

JO2 Carmichael Yeppez

Capt. Kevin Nemelka U.S. Army a veterinarian out of MCAS Yuma makes the trip once a month to NAF El Centro to provide care to resident pets.

1. AOC Ronald Anderson and wife Tammy took their Dalmation "Kaalani" to be checked for a leg problem.
2. "Buster" the cat went for a regular check-up.
3. Sgt. Jason Zuehlke, from the Recruiting Office in El Centro took his Chow Huske "Bear" for shots.
4. "Nicholas" a Shitzu from the RV park was taken by his owner Jan Turnbaugh for nail clipping.
5. AT2 Michelle Turner from Strike took "Tyson" a half German Shepard and half Doby for his booster shots.
6. AOC Jeffrey Elliot's Miniature Pincher Cody" was not to happy to receive his shots.



The Carrot Parade

By JO2 Carmichael Yeppez
Editor

Once again Naval Air Facility El Centro was invited to partake in the annual Holtville Carrot Festival Parade, which took place February 2 in Holtville Ca, a small community 20 miles east of the base.

At the front was the NAF official color guard followed by CAPT. Larry Crane and LT Richard Braunbeck, Strike Fighter Officer in Charge.

Food for thought

By Dr. Flowers

Family Service Center Counselor

Before September 11th, some people complained about the "noise pollution" caused by military aircraft. They would say things like, "Why do they

have to fly so much and make so much noise? I want peace and quiet, and those jets are disturbing me." On September 11th, the noise from the fighter jets was temporarily silenced. But it was not a peaceful silence. It was a silence for mourning and for introspec-

tion. Several days later, the fighter jets were allowed to return to the skies. But a new attitude was seen. Americans realized that the roar of the fighter jets is not a disturbance of the peace. It is a celebration of our freedom and the strength of our national resolve.



The Nerd Zone

PERSONAL FIREWALLS

By David Golding

Information Technology Manager

When your computer is connected to the Internet, it can be just about as vulnerable as if you were to let a "hacker" walk into your home and use your PC.

On a Local Area Network, such as the one you may use at work, a Firewall may be installed to help prevent hackers from accessing the



network. A Firewall is a piece of hardware or software used to close back doors that hackers could use. It is used to block or restrict ports, addresses and protocols vulnerable when communicating across the Internet.

In the past such equipment and software was difficult to install, maintain, and use. As access to the Internet from home computers was limited there was not much call to use Firewalls at home. Nowadays Internet use is way up causing a need for a new class of software called "Personal Firewalls".

Personal Firewall software is designed to protect one computer connected to the Internet. It should be designed to be user friendly, easy to install and easy to maintain. It comes both in stand-alone versions and as parts of

software suites. Examples of stand-alone versions are BlackICE defender, Norton Personal Firewall 2002, and ZoneAlarm. Examples of suites are Norton Internet Security 2002 and McAfee Internet Security to mention a few. It is highly recommended that any one using their own computer at home to access the Internet should purchase and install Personal Firewall software.

For additional information and some Internet Links, go to http://extra.nafec.navy.mil/subwebs/ITdept/nerds_page.htm

Why Do Women Stay in Abusive Relationships?

By Dr. Flowers

NAF Family Advocacy Representative

On January 26, the Assistant Director for Legal Services for the Center for Family Solution of the Imperial Valley gave a presentation to members of the NAF El Centro Family Advocacy Committee on why women stay in abusive relationships.

Ms. Judith Klein-Pritchard explained that women remain in abusive relationships for a variety of reasons. Often women feel economically unable to leave, they hope the abuse will stop, they come to feel they deserve no better, and they may feel they need to be better partners so that their abusers will stop abusing them. Sometimes the parents of abuse victims tell them they must face their problems and work things out. Some women stay because of religious beliefs that discourage divorce, even if there is repeated abuse in the relationship.

There may be periods of "intimacy and love" when there is no abuse. Unfortunately, this is part of a cycle of violence, which almost always continues, and further abuse occurs. The poorly educated and the most highly educated women are most likely to remain in abusive relationships. Those who are



poorly educated do not know how to leave the abusive relationship and lack the resources to do so. Those who are well educated are more likely to remain because they are reluctant to lose the prestige and the "luxurious" lifestyle associated with a "high class marriage."

Fortunately, there are resources to help victims of abuse. The principal goals of the Navy Family Advocacy Program are to prevent abuse, to provide safety, to provide protection for victims, to hold offenders accountable for their actions, and provide education and counseling. The Program works closely with members of the civilian community to achieve these goals. For example, the Center for Family Solutions provides invaluable domestic violence crisis intervention, shelter services, education programs, and victim advocacy. For more information call the NAF El Centro Family

Advocacy Representative at 339-2241.

Statistics

50% of the boys who are grow up in an abusive family environment become abusive as men.

50% of the girls who are reared in an abusive family environment become involved in abusive relationships as adults.

90% of homeless women were victims of abuse.

50% of women are battered emotionally or physically at some point in their lives.

95% of the victims of spouse abuse are women.

A woman will leave her abusive husband (or domestic partner) an average of seven times before she leaves him permanently. When a woman tries to leave an abusive relationship, her risk of facing abuse increases. Some of these women are stalked, attacked, or even murdered.



Fifth Annual Food Fest At NAF El Centro

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

A dazzling evening awaits visitors at this year's 5th annual Food Fest at Naval Air Facility El Centro on Friday, March 8, from 6 to 10 p.m. where several local restaurants will gather to offer their fine cuisine. Besides being treated to great food and local cuisine, attendees will also experience several aerial demonstrations and pyrotechnics to light up the evening.

Guests will have the opportunity to mingle with members of the U.S.

Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, and several other Air Show performers. The U.S. Navy Band, Millennium, will entertain the audience with a variety of music selections.

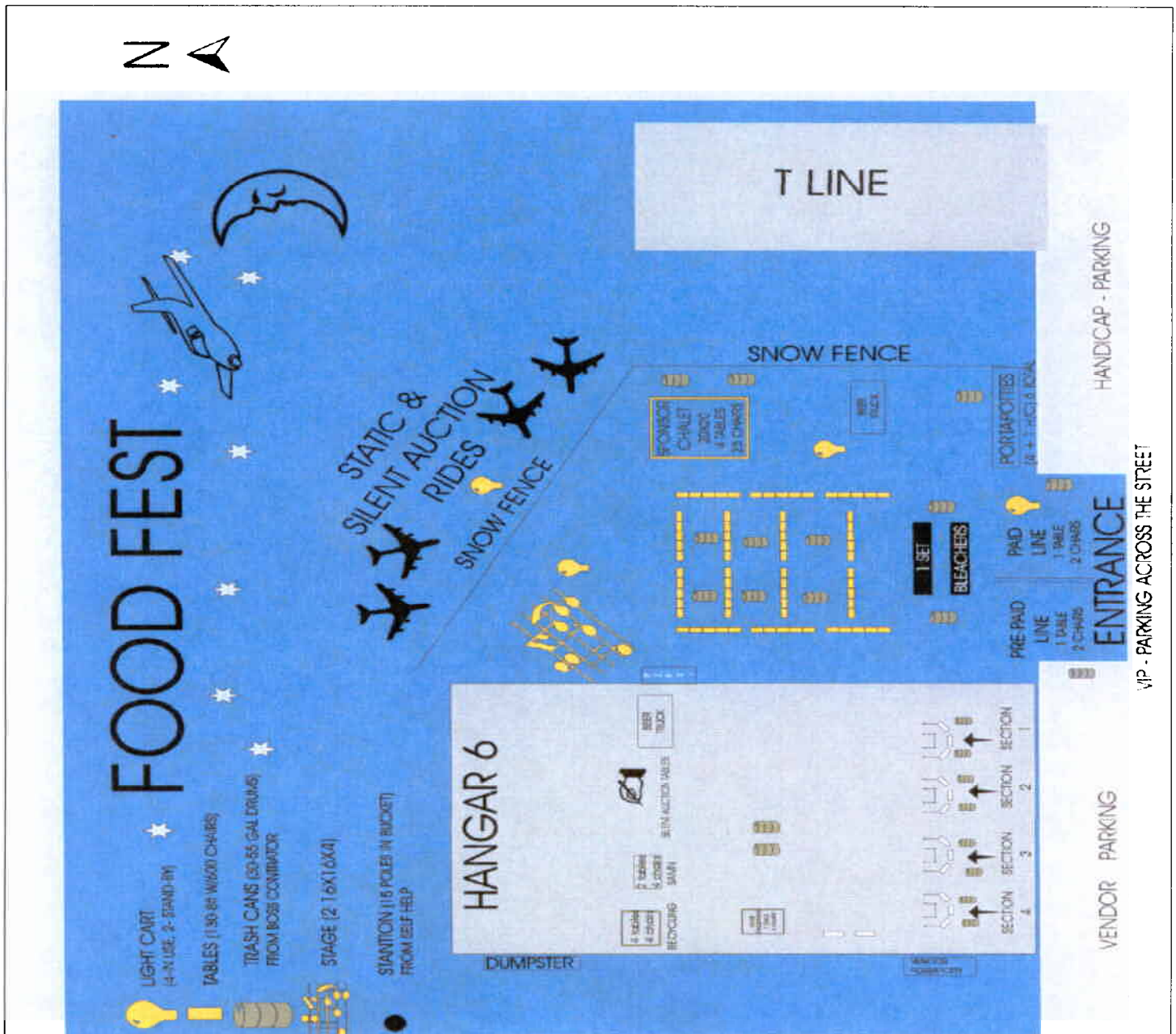
Come hungry to satisfy your appetite from restaurants like the Holtville Athletic Club, Sizzler's, Millies, Mama's Place, the Golden Corral, Smart and Final, Dominoes Pizza, Max Foods, Papa John's Pizza, Albertson's, Brown Bag Cookies, Scribbles, Costco and the Café on Main.

If you are up for a ride in the sky, bring extra cash to bid in the silent

auction for rides in stunt planes. There are height/weight restrictions for those wanting a chance to fly over the Imperial Valley with one of the many world-renowned aerobatic performers. All information on these restrictions will be available at the Food Fest.

Admission is \$3 in advance at participating restaurants. Cost is \$5 at the door.

For more information call the NAF El Centro Public Affairs Office at 339-2519, or log on to our website at www.nafec.navy.mil.





Air Show

By JO2 Carmichael Yeppez
Editor

The Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, The Blue Angels, will headline NAF El Centro's 32nd Annual Air Show on 9 March 2002. Gates will open to the public at 7:00 a.m. and the Air Show begins at 9:30 a.m. Admission and parking are free. This year's show is packed with performers including The Silver Wings Flight Team, Bret Willat's Magic Grob G-103 Sailplane, The US Army's Golden Knights parachute



jump team, the Smoke and Thunder Jet Car and many more!

While your eyes no doubt will be glued heavenward, there will be plenty to see back on Earth where numerous military and civilian static displays await avid air show enthusiasts. Numerous displays and souvenir booths with program

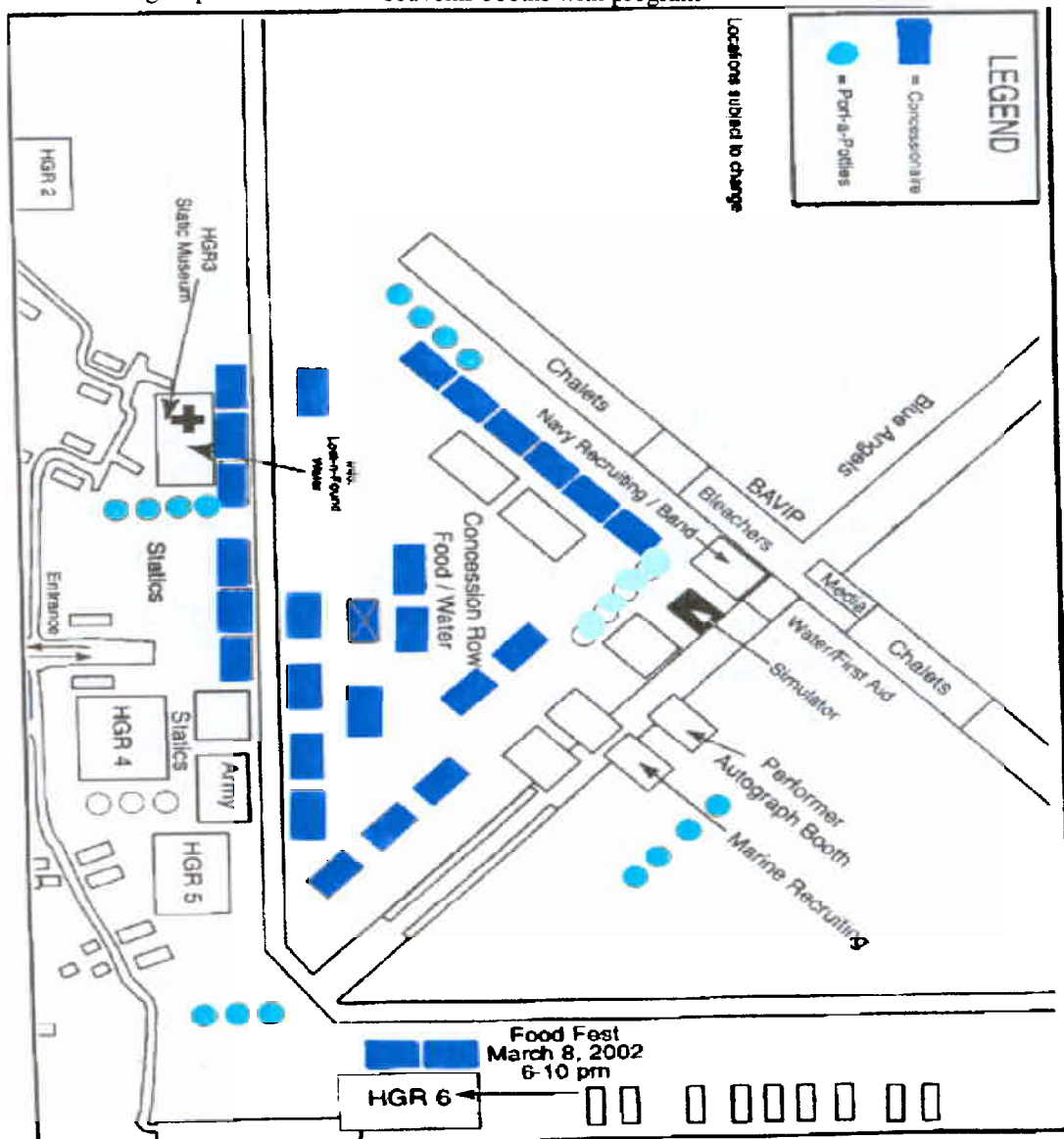
booklets and memorabilia will be available on site, including the Navy Recruiting District display "the Taj Mahal." More than 40,000 visitors are expected this year.

Since the 11 September terrorist incident, national security has heightened for all major events throughout the country, this includes the NAF El Centro Air

Show. To avoid possible delays it is a good idea to arrive early. NO COOLERS, NO PETS, NO WEAPONS will be allowed. All vehicles, backpacks and handbags will be subject to search.

This year's Air Show promises to be everything expected of a Blue Angels' demonstration. From their famed diamond formation to opposing solo aerobatics, their stunts are guaranteed to captivate and leave crowds cheering for more.

For more information log on to our website at www.nafec.navy.mil, or call the Public Affairs Office at (760) 339-2519.



Performers

John Collier

Silver Wings Fighter
Combat International

Sensa Sail Plane Magic
Squirrel Cage

Northrop N9MB
Flying Wing

Planes of Fame P-38

B-2 Fly By

F-16 Demonstration

Russian Thunder

Chuck Lischer

Bill Cornick
Greg Poe

Tim Weber

A-10 Fire Power
Demonstration

Fat Albert

Blue Angels
All events subject
to change



In the Spotlight

Diego

Continued from
page 1

what was his philosophy for work he said, "Always take care of your subordinates, because they are the ones that make you look good. It always feels better to give than to receive and that is what I always try to do. When you do that everything else falls in place."



By JO2 Carmichael Yopez
Editor

At the Navy League Dinner, held at the Mirage Club Monday, February 4. The Sailor of the Year, Sailor of the Quarter, and Junior Sailor of the Month were presented with a check by July Cameron, President of the Imperial Valley Navy League.

Quarters was Held February 21. Aviation Ordnanceman Chief Michael Klaphake received a Navy



SK1 Francisco Diego, AO3 Julie Maurer, and YN1 Michael Martin each received a check presented by July Cameron, Navy League President.

Commendation Medal. Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Rene Nodal received a Letter of Commendation. Electronic Technician 1st Class Michael Manning and

Aviation Ordnanceman Paul Chickowski both received Good Conduct awards. Antonio Tumbaga received a 25 year Length of Service Award.

Spotlight Civilian

Hometown: Riverside, Ca
Enjoys most about job: "Customer service and working with people."
Hobbies: "Dancing and writing songs."
Looking forward to: "Advancing in life."
Time at NAF: "11 1/2 years."
Outlook: "Work hard and accomplish great things."
Favorite Restaurant: "The Mirage Club. The Club Sandwich."



Jackie Metts
MWR Cashier

Spotlight Sailor

Hometown: Bulacan, Philippines.
Enjoys most about job: "Giving the best medical care services to patients."
Hobbies: "I enjoy Swimming fishing, running and cycling."
Looking forward to: "Getting to my next duty station in Hawaii."
Time at NAF: "2 years."
Outlook: "Continue your education and stay away from drugs."



HM1 Carlos Lim
Branch Medical Clinic

Adm. Betancourt

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good position to respond to the security needs following Sept. 11. "Patrolling our harbors," Ruehe said, "you'll see a team of force protection professionals, from Harbor Police and National Guard to our own Navy and Coast Guard, many are reservists that were recalled to active duty on short notice, to fulfill vital security duties."

Ruehe also focused on military families by working out the first phase of the Public Private Venture, which will provide 1,400 new housing units in San Diego.



Adm. Jose Luis Betancourt Jr. speaks as the new commander of Navy Region Southwest. His speech detailed his desire to continue working closely with the community.

In order to do that, he established a great rapport with the local government and community leaders, who recognized his desire to balance environmental protection with mission accomplishment. He truly helped the Navy become not only a good neighbor but also an involved and respected member

of the community in which we live. "With nearly every success," said Ruehe, "we see a link to the civilian community." Ruehe is heading to Okinawa, Japan, where he will assume command of Amphibious Group One. Prior to Betancourt taking over, Adm. Thomas B. Fargo, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, spoke about Ruehe's role in shaping the symbiotic relationship between NRSW and the San Diego area communities. "We must continue to seek solutions," Fargo said, "that are of benefit to the community and the Fleet."

Betancourt, who previously served as the

Commander of the Mine Warfare Command in Ingleside, Texas, is no stranger to the San Diego area. From 1996 to 1998, he commanded the USS Peleliu (LHA 5). "I am looking forward to renewing our professional relationships as we work to carry on the excellent work of the Navy Region Southwest," Betancourt said, "with the goal of keeping the region in the forefront of innovation and excellence in the way we support our Navy and Marine Corps team, our reason for being here." Navy Region Southwest consists of Navy installations of California, Arizona and Nevada and is headquartered in San Diego.